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Amesbury

Traffic and Transportation Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: February 23, 2022

Start: 7:09 PM Virtual Meeting

Attendees: Lauren Tirone, Robert Desmarais, Christopher Falcos, Owen Corcoran, Christine Miller, Jonathan Hickok, (James Nolan absent).

- Minutes from the previous meeting were approved with a minor correction at the bottom of the first page under “Abutter Notices”, where it stated that Councilor Hickok was “not appointed”. It should read, “was appointed”. Lauren stated she would make the correction. Jonathan motion to approve, Chris 2nd, Roll call to approve: Lauren-yes, Chris-yes, John-yes, Rob-yes, Christine-yes, Owen-yes). Approved.

Old Business

- Abutter notices by Rob Desmarais.
 - Rob stated there were no updates at this time and he stated that all new business for this meeting when out per Swift 911 yesterday.
- Speeding issues and bus stop safety at 19 Woodman Road by D’Ann McBryan.
 - Rob stated he has a meeting with the school tomorrow and moved to have the item continued until March. Owen asked for a motion to continue which was made by Rob and 2nd by Christopher. Roll call vote: Lauren-yes, Chris-yes, John-yes, Rob-yes, Christine-yes, Owen-yes. Item will be continued until March meeting.
- Speed bumps on Lake Attitash Way by Crystal Reed.
 - Crystal was in attendance. Crystal stated that she believed the Committee had to reach out to the people on Spindletree to give people the chance to comment on it and were going to be sending out a Swift 911 notice. An unknown caller asked what part of Lake Attitash we were talking about because there were two pieces to it. Crystal stated that the committee had stated 2 speed humps on Lake Attitash Way and 3 on Spindletree to try and cut back on the traffic and the speed.
 - Owen asked if there were any comments or discussion by the committee on this item. John wanted to know what the process is for approving a speed bump, is there need for a traffic study or a sight visit that need to be done for a request for speed bumps. Owen stated that he has been on the committee for approximately a year and a half and cannot recall doing a sight visit for speed humps, however he

is agreeable to that, but is curious to what the rest of the committee thinks. Rob said it makes sense to him. Chris said he also agrees, however he did not originally recommend a sight visit because we had established from Crystal Reed said and what Google Maps showed is that it is a cut-through to use Lake Attitash way and it seemed like a good candidate for speed humps, but if everyone wanted to do a sight visit that would be good too. Rob stated that we also did a sight visit many years ago from a previous request from people on Spindletree. Crystal then stated that she started this approximately a year ago, something happened and I did not show up for a meeting and it was removed and so I placed it back on the agenda. No one seems to be opposed to it and Spindletree asked for it years ago. We have approximately 20 infants on this road who will eventually all be walking and all out on bikes, one of them is my own child. Everyone thought it was a good idea the first time around and you continued it again to give Spindletree a chance to oppose it and no one has so why would it be extended longer. Crystal stated she was not trying to be argumentative but she said she watches people fly 40 mph down that road and go crazy and it's a very narrow road, especially in the winter. Owen asked Lauren if there had been any recent traffic studies in that area. Lauren stated what she does through the police department is a speed and volume study and not an engineering study that has to be requested by the City. Lauren stated it has been a while and nothing recent has been done to her knowledge. Rob stated to Lauren that she did a count approximately 4-5 years ago. John stated that he is all for traffic control and safety and understands the frustration of the requestor. John said he was looking for a better sense of the process, since we have another request for speed bumps on this agenda he felt it would be helpful to know what the process is and to follow that process. Rob said that he and Lauren are the longest standing members on the committee at this point and this really has not been a process. We have gone back and forth on how we have made these determinations, whether we do engineering studies, which are not really applicable to speed bumps for the most part. It seems like the Town wants speed bumps all over the place and once we added them on Amidon it opened the door a few years ago and then we added them on Rocky Hill Road. That was the last one and we now have two more requests before us. Rob asked Chris to confirm but there is not much of a study we can do to determine if it's warranted. Chris agreed that there was no exact study to say whether it's warranted or not but he would like to try and come up with a plan for the future so we can try and have a consistent system. The only real study you can do for speed humps is to make sure that the amount of vehicles are going through are not over a certain amount and that the speeds are not too high, because adding speed humps to a high speed roadway would be more dangerous because the drivers would not be expecting a speed hump on a high speed roadway. Lake Attitash is a very low speed roadway, it's low volume and we established that it's a cut-through so he believes it is a good candidate for speed humps. Chris went on to say that even if we came up with a plan in the future for speed humps, this location would definitely apply with the plan we made.

- Owen asked if there was a motion to install the speed humps. Chris stated he would make the motion to install the speed humps as we discussed at the last meeting, Christine 2nd the motion. Owen asked if there was any discussion about the motion. John stated he was curious on the number and the placement of the speed humps because it is unclear. Rob stated it was 2 on Lake Attitash Way and

3 on Spindletree. Lauren confirmed that from the minutes of the previous meeting. Rob went on to say the location will be determined in the field as he tries to keep them away from people's houses the best he can and not mess up the drainage in the street. Chris agreed and said there is no exact science for putting down speed humps and the best option is to see what it looks like in the field. Owen asked if there was any further discussion to which there was none. Roll call vote: Lauren-yes, Chris-yes, John-yes, Rob-yes, Christine-yes, Owen-yes. The motion passes to install 2 speed humps on Lake Attitash Way and 3 on Spindletree sometime in the spring at the earliest.

New Business

- Addition of a crosswalk on Monroe at Fairway Drive by Carol Dognazzi.
 - Carol was in attendance and requested a crosswalk on Monroe Street at the bottom of Fairway Drive. Carol states that it is unsafe to cross over Monroe Street to get to the sidewalk. Carol went on to say that there is only one sidewalk on Monroe Street and you have to cross over Monroe from her neighborhood to get to that sidewalk. At the intersection of Monroe and Fairway Drive there is also a bus stop according to Carol, and the children from Monroe Street have to cross over to the other side of the street to get to the bus stop at Fairway Drive. Carol also said that she spoke to many of her neighbors and they all agree that there needs to be a crosswalk there.
 - Rob asked to clarify where the bus stop was. Carol stated that it was at the bottom of Fairway near the stop sign and the kids on Monroe Street have to cross over Monroe to get to the bus stop. Owen asked if there was any other discussion from the committee to which there was none. Rob made the motion to put a crosswalk on Monroe Street, seconded by Jonathan Hickok.
 - Roll call to approve: Lauren-yes, Chris-yes, John-yes, Rob-yes, Christine-yes, Owen-yes). Motion Passes

- Request for a No Parking Zone in front of 456 Main Street by Brett Janoski.
 - Brett Janoski, Bob and Linda Hogg, and Tracey Chalifour, were in attendance for this item.
 - Brett stated that it is a safety hazard in that it is hard to pull in and out of the driveway because the trucks are pulled right against our driveway and they are parked there all the time. Brett requested no overnight parking or no parking at all. Brett said he spoke to the boat shop and asked if they would be concerned with this request at all and Graham said that he would prefer that it be no parking at all instead of no overnight parking because when people are parked there it pushes people over the yellow line and cars will actually drive onto the sidewalk and they have a lot of school groups and it creates a safety hazard. Owen asked if there was any other public comment.
 - Bob and Linda Hogg were also in attendance and agreed that no parking would be best across both sides of the street in the area of the boat shop. Linda said that there has been a problem with abandoned vehicles in this area also within the last few years. Linda suggested no parking on Main Street at all since it has become very congested.
 - Tracey Chalifour, who resides on Clark's Road as in attendance and asked to speak. Tracey stated she put in a request to extend the no parking along Main Street for the March meeting but wanted to add to what is being discussed tonight.

Tracey said the sight lines coming out of Clark's Road extend beyond 456 Main Street and beyond. Tracey agrees that it is dangerous.

- Lauren reiterated that part of the improvements that are in the works will eliminate parking on Main Street and we have talked about that in the past, however she received an email from a resident and he asked that it be read into the record at the meeting tonight. The email was from Halid Hatic, who lives on Main Street. The email stated, "Thank you very much for your continued service to the City. Prior to the meeting tonight (as I am unable to join) I wanted to express my support for the item under "new business" for restricted parking by the resident at 456 Main Street. I also wanted to express my ongoing support for the planned bike path along Main Street (we are avid cyclists) and the changes that will precipitate to the parking environment along Main Street....additionally, I would love to have an update on the approval from the January 2021 TTC meeting of my request for lengthening the parking restrictions to encompass the area in front of 448 Main Street (meeting minutes enclosed with approval of request at the very end of the meeting minutes)."
- Owen asked if there was any other public discussion before he heard from the committee. Christine asked to speak. Christine stated that she had to disclose that Brett is her husband and she also lives at 456 Main Street. Christine stated she is concerned for the safety of the public because of the trucks that park on the side of the road. Owen asked if anyone knew who the trucks belonged to and why they were parked there. Christine stated that they live at a residence there which does not have enough off-street parking for their vehicles. Brett stated the resident has a plow business and he will park the trucks there for a while until he needs them. Tracey then said that they are blocking the sidewalk and impeding the pedestrian traffic. Lauren said if they are parked on the sidewalk then people need to call when it is happening so they can be ticketed. Tracey advised that she has personally called the police and has been told that the police are not going to do anything about it. Lauren stated she can address that issue, but in the future it would be helpful if she could let her know when that happens so she can fix it.
- Councilor Hickok stated that he also lives in this area and if this affects his property he will recuse his vote on the issue. John stated he brought a similar issue to the traffic committee a year ago and was hoping that the 25 mph speed limit would help the person living at my house feel safer, which has resulted in yes and no. Some people have no respect the 25 mph speed limit, and cars are parked close to my driveway, which makes it difficult to see when pulling out of the driveway. In addition to echoing everyone's concerns he is also mindful of the Mayor's bike lane proposal and we can't have both parking and bike lanes.
- Tracey said she wanted to add a comment that with the new construction that is proposed and the increase in traffic volumes, which these need to be taken into consideration when talking about the bike lanes and if they will still be the safe thing to do with these increases. We don't want the City to put in bike lanes and then have to take them out again if they are unsafe due to the higher traffic volumes.
- Lauren wanted to reiterate with Rob that an engineering study with the bike lanes and that has already been taken into account given the current state of the roadway and the width of the bike lanes, etc. Rob stated that was correct. Rob then asked if all these trucks have one owner. Bob Hogg said yes and they run their business out of 452B, and that they keep most of their equipment in the

garage behind 452B and they are constantly parking on Clark's Road and cause problems on a constant basis. Lauren told Rob that it was the same people that we put the No Parking signs up before. Rob agreed but stated that by increasing the no parking we will just be displacing the trucks. Rob stated that the road needs to be redesigned, but the parking issue is not really going to go away unless the parking is totally eliminated, but that will bring its own issues. Rob said there is not enough room for a parking lane by any stretch if there is a bike lane. Owen asked for a time frame as to when the bike lane will be put in. Rob said sometime this summer but he does not have a contractor on board yet. John asked Sgt. Tirone if there could be more enforcement regarding trucks that are parked on the sidewalk and Lauren said yes. Bob Hogg asked about another bi-law about parking within 5 feet of a driveway or private road. Bob wanted to know if this is something that can be enforced. Lauren stated no the police will not be addressing that.

- Rob made a motion to propose No Parking signs on the north side of Main Street from Clarks Road to 462 Main Street. John wanted to address Rob's motion to go further and go beyond 466 Main Street which is narrow. Chris wanted to add that he was looking at MassDOT's crash system that from 2019 until the most recent crash in July 2021 there have been 12 crashes from Rocky Hill Road to Evans place and a lot of them have been side-swiping cars parked on the side of the road and some at intersections. This whole curved area from Rocky Hill Road to Evans Place seems to have a lot of crashes and removing the parked cars would help to reduce the amount of crashes, however removing parked cars does increase speed. Chris stated that he believes removing parked cars in this situation would be more beneficial than not however since the bike lanes might reduce speeds. Chris advised that he would entertain no parking from Rocky Hill Road to Evans Place, and on both sides. Chris asked if everyone had been notified on Main, to which Rob said no, and no one on Clark's Road either.
- Rob recommended we take his motion and then take up Tracey's request next month. Rob amended his motion to propose No Parking signs on the north side of Main Street from Clarks Road to 466 Main Street. Chris 2nd. No other discussion. Roll call vote: Lauren-yes, Chris-yes, John-abstain, Rob-yes, Christine-abstain, Owen-yes. Motion passes.
- Request for 25 MPH signs on Old County and Cross Street by Christopher Wright.
 - Christopher Wright was in attendance. Christopher stated that his neighborhood contains three streets that intersect a very steep hill and there are approximately 24 houses that have very limited visibility up or down as people are traveling at high rates of speed up and down the hill and there is no signage. According to Mr. Wright the issue has gotten worse over the past couple of years. Mr. Wright suggested a speed limit sign in the area of Old County Road and First Street be put up to alert the motorists as to what the speed limit is, because there is simply no signage
 - Mary-Lou Ireland, who lives on Second Street, was also in attendance for this item. She agreed with the need for a speed limit sign but also stated there was no stop sign on Cross Street and if one was put up there that would also be helpful.
 - Owen asked if there were any other public comments or comments from the committee to which there were none.

- Rob made a motion to install 25 mph signs in this neighborhood and stop signs at the intersecting roads along Cross Street, Lauren 2nd. No other discussion. Roll call vote: Lauren-yes, Chris-yes, John-yes, Rob-yes, Christine-yes, Owen-yes. Motion passes.
- Request for speed bumps on Lakeshore Drive by Stephen Mason.
 - Stephen Mason was not in attendance. Lauren made a motion to continue until next meeting, Chris 2nd. Rob recommended that if any member of the committee has never been down Lakeshore Drive that they do so for the discussion next month. Chris agreed and stated just by looking at it using Google Maps, it did not look like a good candidate for speed humps, and that everyone should look at it for the next meeting. Roll call to approve: Lauren-yes, Chris-yes, John-yes, Rob-yes, Christine-yes, Owen-yes. Motion Passes
- Speeding and safety issues on Beacon, and Merrimac Street by Linda Hansen-Rodier.
 - Lauren stated that Linda contacted her and stated she could not make the meeting and requested the item be continued until the March meeting.
 - Owen asked for a motion to continue. Chris made the motion with John 2nd. No further discussion. Roll call to approve: Lauren-yes, Chris-yes, John-yes, Rob-yes, Christine-yes, Owen-yes). Motion Passes
- Councilor Nick Wheeler was in attendance and had a question about an agenda item from January regarding the stop signs at Pond Street and High Street and if it had been resolved. Lauren stated that Rob had asked for that item to be continued to the March meeting, so it will be on the agenda next month.

Next meeting scheduled for March 21, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

John made a motion to adjourn with meeting with Lauren 2nd. Roll call vote: Lauren-yes, Chris-yes, John-yes, Rob-yes, Christine-yes, Owen-yes. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

